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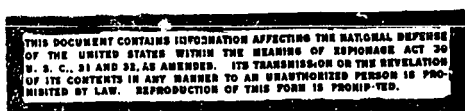
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KONEV'S HEADQUARTERS INDICATES
CONTINUED SOVIETIZATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA;
NOTES PLANTS MAKING JET ENGINES

General Konev has set up his Czechoslovak headquarters in the Imperial Hotel in Karlovy Vary.

There has been intense movement in the last few weeks of Soviet military personnel and functionaries coming to and from that spa. Besides the large Imperial Hotel, the Bristol and Adria hotels have been requisitioned for the Soviet General Staff and its offices.

Karlovy Vary, as the seat of the Soviet General Staff, is expected to serve as a sort of counterpart to Versailles, which General Eisenhower has selected as the site for the North Atlantic Pact Command.

The Soviet military are not in the Sudeten area for the water cure. The triangle of celebrated water resorts of northwestern Bohemia, Karlovy Vary, Mariánské Lázně, and Františkovy Lázně, offers great strategic and logistic advantages. There are many buildings and hotel available for the billeting of troops, and modern, recently expanded airports.

For Czechoslovakia, 1950 was a year of mobilization of all her economic and military forces. Top-ranking Czechoslovak officers, however, have been aware that the Soviet advisors sent to Czechoslovakia have quickly and unceremoniously stripped them of their power. Beginning on 1 January 1951, even the Czechoslovak Army uniforms have been changed so that they now can hardly be distinguished from Soviet Army uniforms, and 4,000 Czechoslovak officers have been sent to the Soviet Union for special training.

From 20 to 30 December 1950, all reserve officers of the Czechoslovak Army, and those who had received their commissions after 1945, were processed at their district commands and asked to sign an agreement to join the military services for a period of 6 years. During this period they would receive, without distinction of rank, 20 percent more pay than they used to get in their civilian jobs. Those who signed the agreement to re-enter the army were assured

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that they would receive their jobs, including all benefits such as salary increases, ~~promotions~~, etc., at the end of their service.

The USSR has acquired full control of Czechoslovakia's arms industry. A secret order issued by the Ministry of Industry placed certain war plants, listed in detail, under Soviet control, thus eliminating virtually all interference on the part of the Czechoslovak authorities. As part of the Czechoslovak industrial reorganization, it is planned to move entire plants and their specialized personnel from western Bohemia and Moravia to the north. Mention has been made of the transfer of the Skoda plants in Plzen, the Ringhoffer Tatra factories, and the Rostov plants near Prague. The latter produce jet engines but are registered as plants making stoppers for beer bottles.

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